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## NOTES AND NEWS.

ČELAKOVSKY has lately described a hybrid between *Anthemis Cotula* L. and *Matricaria inodora* L.

DR. DOUGLAS H. CAMPBELL has published<sup>1</sup> his paper on the germination of the spores of *Marsilia Ægyptiaca*. The main facts have been already published by him in the *Bulletin* of the Torrey Botanical Club, 1888, p. 258, a paper read before the A. A. A. S.

DR. HENRY L. OSBORN has retired from the editorship of the *American Monthly Microscopical Journal*. The *Journal* will continue under the business management of Mr. Smiley, and will be edited in Washington. Mr. Romyne Hitchcock, the former editor, has lately arrived from Japan.

HANAUSEK has reinvestigated the epidermis of the seeds of *Capsicum*, and has found that the thin outer wall, which has usually been called a cuticle or cutinized membrane, is mostly cellulose, with a thin inner layer *lignified*, as the very thick inner and side walls are.—*Ber. der deut. bot. Gesells.*, vi. 329.

IT WILL BE remembered that Dr. Gray and J. Hammond Trumbull, in their "Review of DeCandolle's Origin of Cultivated Plants, with Additions upon Certain American Species," in the *American Journal of Science* for 1883, contended stoutly for the American origin of two of the three plants of whose nativity DeCandolle was entirely uncertain. These were the garden bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) and squash (*Cucurbita moschata*). Wittmack has now found prehistoric seeds of *Phaseolus vulgaris* from North American graves among the collections of the Hemenway expedition to Arizona. Prehistoric seeds of the bean, so far as known to Wittmack, have not before been found in this country. The discovery is of special interest, therefore, as establishing Gray and Trumbull's theories that this land is the home of so important a food. It is to be hoped that a similar confirmation may be given to the evidence regarding the home of the squash.

WE HAVE already commended the *Hepaticæ Americanæ*, issued by Dr. L. M. Underwood and O. F. Cook. Decades I and II of this series of *exsiccatae*, consisting of representative types of the more common species of the eastern United States, were issued in November, 1887. Decades III and IV, which are now ready for distribution, contain in addition a number of California species, including two never before distributed. The authors announce that at least two decades will be issued annually, if the necessary materials can be obtained; and it is not expected that the number of species to be eventually distributed shall be limited by political boundaries.

Contributions of desirable species are requested, and for every species furnished in sufficient quantity for distribution, a decade of the *exsiccatae* will be given or some other recompense made.

The price of each issue of two decades is \$1.25; they may be obtained of L. M. Underwood, Syracuse, N. Y. Only three sets of Decades I and II now remain.

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<sup>1</sup>Berichte d. deut. bot. Gesells. vi. 340-344, 1 plate.